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JOURNEY TO THE EAST
PART 4 OF 4

#16

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SONIC UNIVERSE™

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Tracy Yardley!
Hunzeker

Welcome to the planet Mobius—a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Sonic and his friends have traveled to the Dragon Kingdom to weaken the Iron Dominion from abroad! Now they come face-to-face with the traitor to the Chaotix – Espio!

MILES "TAILS" PROWER
SONIC'S SIDEKICK

SALLY ACORN
DISPLACED PRINCESS

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
HERO OF MOBIUS

MONKEY KHAN
CYBORG SIMIAN

YOU!

ESPIO THE CHAMELEON
EX-CHAOTIX MEMBER

Journey to the East
Part Four:
A World Under Constant Vigil

WRITER: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY INKS: JIM AMASH
COLORS: JASON JENSEN LETTERS: TERESA DAVIDSON
COVER: TRACY YARDLEY & BEN HUNZEKER ASSISTANT EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI
EDITOR/MANAGING EDITOR: MIKE PELLERITO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK
SPECIAL THANKS TO CINDY CHAU & JERRY CHU AT SEGA LICENSING

YOU DARE SHOW YOUR FACE TO--!

WHOA WHOA *WHOA!* TIME-OUT!

HE'S A TRAITOR TO YOU AND TO HIS TEAM!

AND HE'S BEEN A FRIEND FOR MUCH LONGER.

HE ATTACKED YOU! HE PUNCHED YOU IN THE *FACE!*

YEAH, HE DID. YOU AND I HAVE GOTTEN INTO THREE TIMES AS MANY FIGHTS. BY THAT LOGIC, I SHOULD BE STOMPING YOU INTO THE DIRT.

FINE. HAVE IT YOUR WAY.

I USUALLY DO.

First you go soft on Robotnik, now this guy...

KEN RAISES A GOOD POINT, THOUGH.

YOU'VE MADE IT CLEAR YOU'RE IN WITH THE IRON DOMINION. WHY ARE YOU HERE NOW?

I DON'T WANT TO DEBATE SEMANTICS, BUT I *AM* WITH THE SHINOBI CLAN. I AM ONLY WITH THE IRON DOMINION THROUGH... EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

KNUCKLES MENTIONED SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES,* BUT HE WASN'T SURE WHAT YOU MEANT.

I AM NOT PERMITTED TO SAY MUCH, BUT MY CLAN LEADER IS WILLING TO REVEAL EVERYTHING.

*HINTS WERE DROPPED IN STH #204!

THE BRIDE OF CONSTANT VIGIL HAS BEEN OBSERVING YOUR EFFORTS IN TRYING TO DISMANTLE THE CLAN OF FOUR HOUSES. I VOLUNTEERED TO GUIDE YOU TO A MEETING WITH HER.

I'M SORRY, ESPIO, BUT YOUR WORD ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH NOW.

VERY WELL THEN.

NO MORE SECRETS. I'LL GIVE YOU ALL I HAVE ON EACH OF YOU, REMOVING ANY ADVANTAGE I MIGHT HAVE HAD.

SECRETS? ABOUT *US*? WE'RE THE *HEROES*, ES. WE'RE SQUEAKY CLEAN.

BUT IF YOU THINK THAT WILL WARM US UP TO YOU, FINE. HIT ME WITH YOUR WORST.

"THE SNEAK".*

*STH#97

THAT WAS A ONE TIME THING... JUST FOR LAUGHS...

...HOW DID YOU EVEN...?

I HAVEN'T BEEN A FREEDOM FIGHTER VERY LONG. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?

"CAPTAIN SUPER FOX-MAN."**

NOBODY WAS SUPPOSED TO READ THAT! I WAS JUST A KID-- *MORE* OF A KID!

**TAILS MINI-SERIES

WELL?

THE LOCATION OF YOUR ROYAL BIRTHMARK.

WHEN ELIAS CAME BACK, I HAD TO VERIFY HIS CLAIM, SO...

NO, NO. WE WON'T SPEAK OF IT FURTHER.

CAN WE SKIP ME AND GO BACK TO SALLY?

NO. FOR YOU, I'M AFRAID I CAN ONLY CONFIRM THERE ARE OTHER KHANS.

NO, THERE AREN'T. I WAS AN ONLY CHILD, AND I KNOW HOW MY PARENTS DIED.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

IT'S A PRETTY COMMON FAMILY NAME. I'M SURE THERE'S LOTS OF OTHER KHANS OUT THERE.

NOT FAMILIES! YOU! OTHERS LIKE YOU!

WHAT OTHERS LIKE ME?! I WAS THE ONLY ONE ROBOTNIK MANAGED TO--!

EASY THERE, MONKEY-BOY. WE'VE STILL GOT A CONTINENT TO LIBERATE AND A CITY TO RESCUE, REMEMBER?

SO YOU'VE PROVED YOU'VE GOT DIRT ON ALL OF US. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE TRUST YOU ANY MORE NOW?

INFORMATION IS EVERYTHING WITHIN MY CLAN. I HAVE LEFT MYSELF ENTIRELY PRONE TO YOU. THE FACT I KNOW ANY OF THESE THINGS JUST COMES FROM DOING MY JOB.

WHICH IS WHAT?

AS I SAID, THE BRIDE OF MY CLAN WILL REVEAL ALL. PLEASE ACCEPT THESE BLIND-FOLDS SO I MAY TAKE YOU TO OUR SECRET HEADQUARTERS.

ALL RIGHT, ESPIO. WE'LL FOLLOW YOUR LEAD FOR NOW.

THANK YOU, PRINCESS, I PROMISE YOU WON'T REGRET IT.

LATER...

IT'S BAD ENOUGH WE'RE GOING SO **SLOW**, BUT I CAN SAFELY SAY I'M TOTALLY LOST NOW.

GOOD. THAT WAS THE POINT.

WELCOME TO THE WAY OF THE BLIND. YOU WILL FIND MY MASTER IF YOU CAN REACH THE OTHER SIDE.

OKAY, COOL--

WAIT! WHAT DO YOU MEAN "IF"?!

I'M SORRY. THIS IS OUR WAY.

ESPIO, WAIT--!

Hmph. NINJA.

DON'T WORRY, SONIC. I CAN FLY US ACROSS!

NO, YOU CAN'T...

I'VE HAD SOME DEALINGS WITH THE SHINOBI CLAN. THEY'RE EXPERTS IN HIDING TRAPS IN PLAIN SIGHT.

AND I ALMOST FLEW INTO THAT!

"WAY OF THE BLIND." INVISIBLE OBJECTS... *Hmmm...*

THINK YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING, SAL?

I THOUGHT SO!

THERE'S A HIDDEN PATHWAY LEADING ACROSS THE CHASM.

BUT I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS. IT'S UNDOUBTEDLY A MAZE OR LADEN WITH TRAPS... IF WE TAKE IT SLOW, MAYBE WE CAN--

"SLOW"? WHAT IS THIS "SLOW" YOU SPEAK OF?

SONIC! BE CAREFUL!

"CAREFUL"? SO MANY FOREIGN WORDS TODAY!

WHOOPS!

ESPIO MAY HAVE HAD SOME "DIRT" ON US...

"...BUT NOW I HAVE DIRT ON HIS TRICKY LITTLE PATH."

I NEVER KNEW YOU TO PLAY DIRTY, HEDGEHOG.

LEAVE THE JOKES TO THOSE OF US WITH THE WIT, MONKEY-BOY.

WE'RE ABOUT TO MEET THE LAST LEADER OF THIS REGION. YOU CAN'T GO IN LOOKING LIKE THAT!

EVERYBODY'S A CRITIC!

OKAY FOLKS--FOCUS. WE'VE OVERCOME THEIR FIRST CHALLENGE, LET'S BE READY FOR ANYTHING.

YOUR TREPIDATION IS UNNECESSARY. COME IN AND WE WILL SPEAK PLAINLY.

THANK YOU FOR SEEING US. I AM...,

YOU CAN FOREGO THE HONORIFICS, PRINCESS. I AM WELL AWARE OF WHO YOU ARE.

VERY WELL THEN. THE CLAN OF FOUR HOUSES...

...IS EVIL, AND ITS SUPPORT CRUMBLES.

I KNOW YOU ARE HERE TO CONVINCE US TO BREAK AWAY.

I LIKE YOUR DIRECTNESS, LADY. SO? WILL YOU DROP THE IRON JERKS?

YES, YOU HAVE MY WORD OF HONOR. THE CLAN OF FOUR HOUSES IS NO MORE.

SWEET! THAT WAS EASY. THANKS FOR YOUR TIME. WE KNOW THE WAY OUT.

WAIT JUST A MINUTE!

YOU CAN'T LET IT BE SIMPLE, CAN YOU?

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE! WE SPENT DAYS TRAVELING HERE AND RISKING OUR LIVES TO CONVINCE EACH CLAN'S BRIDE!

YOU HAD TO LEAVE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS BEHIND IN THE HANDS OF THOSE MONSTERS! AND THE DRAGON KINGDOM FREEDOM FIGHTERS--!

KEN? TAKE A MINUTE.

I'VE HEARD THE SHINOBI CLAN CALL THEMSELVES THE PROTECTORS OF THESE LANDS.

IF THAT'S TRUE, WHY DIDN'T YOU HELP US FIGHT? WHY DID YOU SIDE WITH THE IRON DOMINION?

GENERATIONS AGO, WE THOUGHT AS YOU DID, WE'VE FOUGHT OPENLY AGAINST THE OTHER CLANS. WE TRIED TO POLICE THE FREE PEOPLE OF THE DRAGON KINGDOM.

WE WERE NEARLY WIPED OUT FOR OUR EFFORTS. SO WE ADOPTED OUR SHADOWY WAYS TO SURVIVE. WE LEARNED TO DO MORE WITH LESS.

THE SHINOBI CLAN IS SMALL. IF WE HAD CHOSEN TO STAND AND FIGHT, THE IRON DOMINION AND ITS ENSLAVED HOUSES WOULD HAVE WIPED US OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL.

THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR FREEDOM FIGHTERS PROVES MY THINKING WAS CORRECT. WE DID AS WE HAVE FOR GENERATIONS: WATCH AND WAIT.

BUT...

SOMETIMES ACTION MUST BE TAKEN.

ESPIO HAS SHOWN ME THIS BY DEVIATING SO GREATLY FROM HIS MISSION.

WHAT MISSION?

WE ALL THOUGHT HE WAS A NATIVE TO ANGEL ISLAND.

WELL... WITH YOUR PERMISSION?

SPEAK.

I WAS THE MOST RECENT SENT TO MONITOR THE GUARDIAN OF ANGEL ISLAND.

YOU MEAN YOU WERE SPYING ON KNUCKLES THIS WHOLE TIME?

MORE OR LESS.

KNUCKLES COMES FROM A LONG LINE OF GUARDIANS CALLED THE "BROTHERHOOD." THE BROTHERHOOD TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO MONITOR MOBIUS FOR THREATS AGAINST ANGEL ISLAND.

MY CLAN DIDN'T THINK SUCH A POWERFUL, SPECIES-CENTRIC ORGANIZATION SHOULD GO UNCHECKED.

EACH GENERATION, ONE OF US IS CHOSEN TO KEEP TRACK OF THE ACTIVE GUARDIAN TO PROTECT MOBIUS.

"MY MENTOR WAS VALDEZ. HE WAS MONITORING GUARDIAN LOCKE AND HIS DEALINGS WITH THE KINGDOM OF ACORN.

"HE HELPED ME SETTLE IN RAINBOW VALLEY AND BUILD MY IDENTITY AS JUST ANOTHER LOCAL."

"I WAS MEANT PURELY TO OBSERVE KNUCKLES AND REPORT ANY DANGEROUS DECISIONS HE MADE.

"I WAS ONLY ALLOWED TO REVEAL MYSELF IF THE SITUATION WAS DIRE--SUCH AS WHEN DR. ROBOTNIK CAPTURED YOU ALL ON ANGEL ISLAND.*

*SEE THE CLASSIC TALE IN SONIC SELECT VOL.2

"I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH HIM. I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO JOIN THE CHAOTIX.

"I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BECOME HIS FRIEND."

ESPIO HAS BROKEN THE TABOO OF HIS STATION, BUT I CANNOT IGNORE THAT IT HAS BEEN THE RIGHT CHOICE.

WH-WHAT?

I ORDER YOU TO RETURN TO YOUR STATION ON ANGEL ISLAND. YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO ACT FREELY AND AS YOU SEE FIT.

REALLY?! I CAN?!

I--YOU--JUST--

YES!

THANK YOU, MO--

≥AHEM≤ MASTER.

PLEASE EXCUSE MY OUTBURST.

BEFORE YOU GO, RETRIEVE THE MYSTICAL FAN OF FEN XING AND BRING IT TO NEW MOBOTROPOLIS. YOUR FRIENDS WILL NEED ITS POWER.

AT ONCE.

SEE YOU BACK IN THE CITY!

YOU BETTER. YOU'RE WAY BEHIND ON YOUR HEROISM QUOTA.

YOU MAY HAVE BROKEN THE CLAN OF THE FOUR HOUSES, BUT YOUR WORK HAS JUST BEGUN--

--KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE.

I KNOW.

SSSZAP

WITH THIS CROWN, I SWEAR I WILL DO MY BEST TO BOTH PROTECT MY PEOPLE AND TO HONOR THE AUTHORITY OF THE CLANS. YOU HAVE MY WORD OF HONOR.

I JUST HOPE I CAN LIVE UP TO THE HYPE.

I KNOW YOU WILL.

GUESS WHO'S JUICIN' DOWN TO...

HEROES CONVENTION CHARLOTTE

JUNE 4-6, 2010

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

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WRITER

IAN FLYNN

ARTISTS

TRACY YARDLEY!, JON GRAY, JIM AMASH, BEN HUNZEKER

& MORE!

FOR THE FULL SCOOP CLICK ON OVER TO...:

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YOU WILL HAVE MY SHINOBI CLAN ENSURING A SAFE DEPARTURE FROM THE DRAGON KINGDOM.

THANK YOU, BRIDE OF CONSTANT VIGIL.

WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE REVEALED TO US.

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN SPARE THE EXTRA MUSCLE?

I MEAN, YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE GUARDS IN HERE.

OH?

DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE I WOULD LEAVE MYSELF TOTALLY PRONE TO SUCH POWERFUL OUTSIDERS?

S-SONIC! LOOK!

WH-WHOA!

OKAY, I ADMIT IT...

...THAT'S PRETTY COOL!

THE NEXT DAY...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS HOSPITALITY, LI YUEN.

YES. AND I WILL RETURN TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IT HAS BEEN THE HONOR OF MY VILLAGE, AND EVEN MORE MYSELF, TO HOST SUCH ESTEEMED YOUNG PEOPLE. I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL RETURN TO US, VICTORIOUS.

THE TORNADO IS PREPPED, SONIC!

WE'RE READY TO GO.

FEELING A BIT MORE CONFIDENT THAN WHEN WE LANDED?

MUCH MORE. LET'S GO SAVE THE DAY.

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

LET'S DO IT TO IT!

NEXT STOP-- NEW MOBOTROPOLIS!

HANG ON, FREEDOM FIGHTERS, THE CAVALRY IS ON THE WAY!

The adventure continues in Sonic the Hedgehog #210!

Next time in **SONIC UNIVERSE:** Tails finds "Trouble In Paradise!"

MY SONIC UNIVERSE™ FAN ART

Juan Pedro A.
Argentina

Brittany M.
Texas

Kirsten D.
North Carolina

FAN FUNNIES!

by Marlon L. from Florida

HEY, KIDS!

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OFF PANEL Journey to the East

OUR HEROES HEAD FOR HOME!
FINALLY, A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION!
FINALLY, I CAN RESCUE MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS!
FINALLY, A CHANCE AT A DECENT CHILIDOG!

SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: JAMAL PEPPERS INKS/COLORS: PAUL KAMINSKI

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COMING SOON!

NEXT ISSUE: 17

GET READY FOR:

THE TAILS ADVENTURE

WHO'RE YOU CALLIN' A "SIDE-KICK"?!

THE NEW ARC BEGINS THE WEEK OF 6/29/10!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: 213

IT'S A **BIG** NEW STORYLINE, AS SONIC & SALLY TAKE A TRIP DOWN TO WOLF-PACK COUNTRY IN...

"REIGNING CATS & DOGS"
part one (of two)

ON SALE THE WEEK OF 6/15/10

Dear 'My Sonic Universe',
I've been reading since issue #146 and started collecting around #184. I just have to say I think you do a "way past cool" job with the story and artwork!

You can't see it, but I assure you I am blushing!

Question:
Have you ever thought of bringing any villains from the games to your series?

****laughs in a villainous tone* We shall see.***

Are there going to be any new Team Dark members?

New members? Unlikely. A deeper exploration into their benefactors? Now THERE'S an idea.

In the "Knuckles: The Return" saga, Dr. Finitevus said to Knux that there was an Enerjak before Dimitri - could he be referring to Pir'Oth Ix?

Of Nocturnus Clan fame? Unlikely. Although Pir'Oth Ix and Enerjak would have the best "funny looking hat" contest ever in the history of ever.

Finally, I've read an article that says Predator Hawk, Bean and Dynamite were once a part of "the armada". Is this a reference to the Battle Kukku Army or the "Battle Bird Armada" as it's called in America?

What is this..."Battle Bird Armada" you speak of? I know not of such things.

Oh, wait, you mean the group that's going to be flying the coop all over the NEXT ISSUE? Now I remember...

Let me close by wishing your series continued success and thanks for all the enjoyment you guys have brought millions of kids and adults like myself!

Sincerely,
Blue H.
from Georgia

Thanks for the kind words, Blue!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe',
A BIG hand on Sonic Universe & Sonic the Hedgehog! It's been awesome following all the adventures Sonic & co. have had out of the video games and it was especially nice to see James Fry draw STH#207!

If you liked FRY's art in Sonic #207, wait'll you get a load of "Sonic: HIDE & SEEK & DESTROY", this year's "Free Comic Book Day" extravaganza! Featuring all new pencils from the fantastical FRY!

I've been drawing Sonic since I was seven and I'd like to know how to put my "happening hedgehog doodles" to good use in the future.

Submit your drawings to the fan art section of this book and we'll be happy to print whatever we can!

I would be honored if you could put my letter in "My Sonic Universe"! ALL HAIL SHADOW!

Jairus E.
from Alberta, CANADA

The honor was all ours!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe',
I really want to learn how to draw Sonic better. Can I have a free tour of the Archie Offices so I can see how the comics are made?

Hayley C.
from Florida

I would love to help ya, Hayley, I really would – but you're much better off practicing your Sonic drawing skills using the Sonic comic books as a guide! And besides, it can get a bit dangerous in these hallowed halls of Archie-dom -- just ask all the interns who got beaned in the face during our over-zealous "koosh ball fridays"!

See ya next time!

IT'S YOUR SONIC UNIVERSE!

We want <u>your</u> input! Write & tell us what you're likin', lovin', or what's leaving you in the dust! Remember, include "My Sonic Universe" in the subject line on your letter or e-mail! It's your Sonic Universe, after all, so drop us a line!